



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

National Radon Action Month, 2005

During National Radon Action Month, our Nation is reminded of the serious danger that radon gas poses in our homes. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon causes about 20,000 deaths from lung cancer in the U.S. annually. Exposure to indoor radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking, and the U.S. Surgeon General has warned that radon is a national health problem.

Protecting the health of all Americans against the threat of radon gas begins with testing your home.

Radon is a natural radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water from the natural decay of uranium. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Fortunately, scientists have provided tools that help protect us from radon, such as a simple test that determines the level of exposure in our homes, schools and other buildings. Testing for and measurement of this dangerous gas in the indoor air we breathe is simple, inexpensive and effective. If elevated levels are detected, there are simple, cost effective steps that can be taken to reduce concentrations to acceptable levels.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working in concert with other Federal, State, and volunteer organizations to educate Americans about the risks of radon. During National Radon Action Month, I encourage all Americans to join in this crucial effort and learn more about the health risk posed by radon, test for it, and when warranted take steps to reduce exposure to it.

As Assistant Administrator of the Office of Air and Radiation in the United States Environmental Protection Agency, I urge the recognition of the month of January, 2005, as National Radon Action Month. I encourage our partners and programs to honor this observation with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.



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